

CORPUS CHRISTI CALLER

By The
CALLER PUBLISHING COMPANY.
MEMBER ASSOCIATED PRESS

JOHN W. STAYTON, Managing Editor.

Subscription Rates—By Mail
Daily and Sunday, one year \$5.50
One month .50
Sunday only, one year 1.50

BY CARRIER
In Corpus Christi and Kingsville
Daily and Sunday, one year \$5.50
Per week .50

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CIRCULATION DEPARTMENT
PHONE 28.

Address all business communications and make out all checks, drafts, money orders and express orders to The Caller Publishing Company. All items, articles and communications should be addressed to Editor, Corpus Christi Caller. Entered as second-class matter at the Postoffice in Corpus Christi, Texas.

CIRCULATION BOOKS
OPEN TO ADVERTISERS

Sunday, July 25, 1915.

THE AMERICAN NOTE.

President Wilson's reply to the German note of July 8, 1915, constitutes a compact review of American sentiment. It is marked by dignity, logic and the spirit of friendship, but it places the responsibility for future acts upon the shoulders of the Imperial German Government with clear-cut attitude.

Therefore, threatened by the English note, Germany has condemned both for the freedom of the seas and for those principles of international law which have amounted to the only guarantee between nations. President Wilson has mentioned this and illustrates the concessions offered by Germany as "arrangements for a partial suspension of these prima facie rights which virtually sets them aside." He then sweeps away the argument of expediency at a stroke. "Illegal and inhumane acts, however justifiable they may be thought to be, against an enemy who is believed to have acted in contravention of law and humanity, are manifestly indefensible when they deprive neutrals of their acknowledged rights, particularly when they violate the right to live itself."

The sinking of the Lusitania is spoken of as a "wanton act," and Germany is asked to destroy it as a matter of national interest, and to offer such reparation as may be possible if reparation is possible—but the needless destruction of American lives. The note mentions the sailing of German submarine officers to discriminate in their operations, as proved during the past two months, and argues that it is therefore possible, if the spirit exists, for them to conduct themselves according to the accepted practices of war. It refuses to accept the suggestion that certain vessels be designated as exempt from attack, holding that "The very agreement would be implication, subject other vessels to illegal attack, and would be a curtailment of those principles for which this Government contends."

The substance of the note is expressed in two sentences: "The rights of neutrals in time of war are based upon principle, not upon expediency; and principle is immutable," and, "The Government of the United States will continue to contend for that freedom, the freedom of the high seas, from whatever quarter violated, without compromise, and at any cost."

In substance, the note is an ultimatum. It is phrased diplomatically, but forcefully. It means that Germany must safeguard American lives or that friendly relations will come to an abrupt end. It means, if Germany should feel disinclined to recede from the position taken, war; for where an exchange of opinion is not possible, the first overt act precipitates war. It means that the United States is ready and eager to mediate between Germany and England—after the United States has been given certain definite guarantees.

It means that the crisis is at hand. We hope that Germany won't stand pat. Pat sounds so Irish.

Extreme measures? Fish scales are seen by the amateur angler.

Literary Digest: "Why Athletes were scrapped." Because they scrapped themselves.

Senator Tillman thinks the Panama defenses adequate. When he's in the Canal Zone; yes.

HENCEFORTH.

Considering questions of expediency and conditions new to war, The Caller has seen merit in many of the German contentions, and has at times sided with Germany, in no instance deeming its stand subject to apology. Neutrality, too, has been a living force, offering additional friendships at home and abroad, along with the chance to escape prejudices of blood and tradition.

For German people, as a people, we have the sincerest admiration, although we have never subscribed to the theory of militarism that has so thoroughly permeated their national code of existence. Even now, when relations between this country and Germany have become strained to the breaking point, we believe that there is an essential difference between England's militarism at sea and Germany's on land, since such has been the logical projection of rampant physical ambitions, easily capable of substantiation.

But, whatever our individual belief in this or any other relation we are American before we are anything else, and we shall therefore subscribe to the will of the majority, no matter what the penalty might be. We think it is a matter of moral necessity that every American citizen, believing in the superiority of democratic institutions, should get in line and stay in line, holding tenaciously to the belief that unity means power that division of sentiment means confusion and disruption. For there is no failing short-distance unity being born.

America insists upon the freedom of the seas. We have the two varieties here—sea and air.

We must admit that the idea of mowing Gladys Westcott's grass over and over, of antisharknipses provides.

In the next Olympic meet Russia can enter at least 22000000 men capable of putting up a close contest in the Marathon.

More sharks are to be expected on the University campus. The shame of Texas could not be more appropriately advertised.

President Wilson thinks that the next big battle may develop things in Mexico. May I catch your attention May sometime ago.

Every time we imagine that we see a little wane, we need only witness by reading exports of hoppy notifications in the New England States.

According to news reports, another Georgia carrier has been severely slashed. This sounds as though Texas is not the only State with a potentially problematical situation.

The University of Pennsylvania has secured a professor from Harvard. If he is in the same shape as Lowman, he ought to be a fitting authority on rules of the twentieth century.

Those countries that have received notes from the United States needn't feel slighted. It's difficult for the mills to turn out stronger paper to keep up with the State Department's demands.

The first bale of cotton marketed in Houston brought \$1.32 per pound. Yet some folks are unwise enough to suppose that Houston business men are not philanthropic in their dealings with others.

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